

Application No. 09/820,316
Reply dated September 3, 2004
Response to Office Action dated March 3, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 17 remain in this application, and claims 15-16 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The claim amendments appearing above are made after consideration of the comments provided in sections 3 and 5-7 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. While the suggestion provided by the Examiner in section 3 on page 2 of the Office Action is acknowledged, the flat elements referred to in claims 5 and 9-14 are formed in transition areas from the spokes to the rim instead of as parts of the spokes themselves, and an alternative modification to claims 5 and 9-14 is presented. The meaning of the term "thickenings" as used in claims 4 and 7-8 is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art from reading the specification and reviewing the drawings, and this term is unchanged. Finally, the term "transitions" is properly used in claim 17 and requires no antecedent basis, since it is used for the first time in claim 17. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in this application now fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Independent claim 1 is rejected, along with dependent claim 4 and now-canceled claim 15, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 521,587 to Hirt. Reconsideration is requested. The Hirt patent does not disclose a wheel comprising spokes which have solid, non-V-shaped cross-sections in first areas connected with the wheel hub and V-shaped cross-sections in second areas connected with the rim as currently

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amended claim 1 defines. As noted previously, all "areas" of each Hirt spoke or arm a⁴ have substantially the same corrugated, approximately V-shaped cross-section.

Independent claim 1 is also rejected, along with all dependent claims, as anticipated by U.S. Design Patent 205,032 to Reid. Reconsideration of this rejection is also requested. Nothing in any of the four views provided by the Reid patent suggests that the Reid wheel has spokes with solid, non-V-shaped cross-sections in first areas connected with the wheel hub and V-shaped cross-sections in second areas connected with the rim as currently amended claim 1 defines. The hub area in the Reid configuration is formed by a large central annular disk (see attached sketch) from which V-shaped spokes extend up to the wheel rim. For design reasons, the ribs are also indicated in the area of the hub on the topside of the wheel rim (the side seen by a viewer). This has no influence, however, on the technical teaching for one skilled in the art. A person skilled in the art understands that the Reid spokes have a V-shaped profile over their entire lengths; it must be presumed, absent evidence to the contrary, that the profile illustrated in Figure 3 of the Reid patent extends over the entire length of the Reid spokes, and that no abrupt changes in wall thicknesses are provided.

Independent claim 1 is not anticipated by either the Hirt patent or the newly cited Reid patent, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable. The rest of the claims remaining in this application are dependent claims and are patentable as well. With respect to the rejection of dependent claim 4, moreover, as

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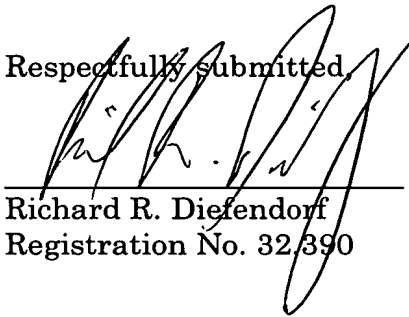
noted previously, attention is again directed to lines 7-13 on page 2 of the Hirt patent, which clearly explain that each of the spokes or arms a⁴ has a substantially uniform thickness. Spokes or arms which have uniform thicknesses do not have thickenings as claim 4 requires. The Reid patent shows a roof-shaped spoke construction and angled spoke ends, but fails to show thickenings as claim 4 particularly defines. Claim 4, therefore, is separately patentable over the documents relied on by the Examiner.

This application is now in condition for allowance for reasons discussed above. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

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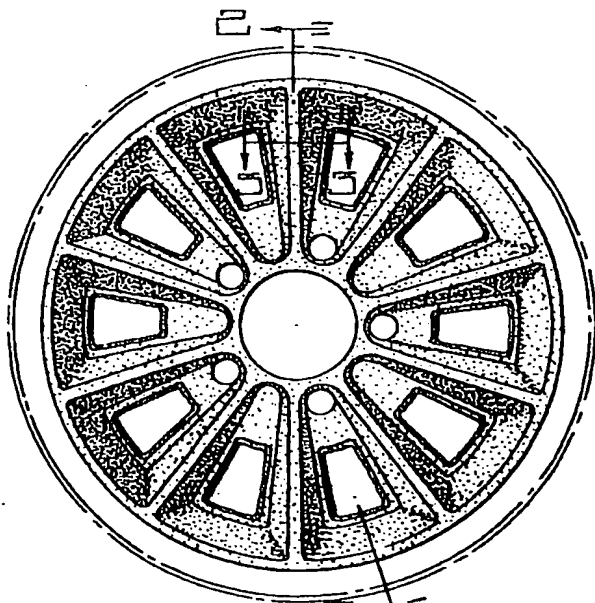


FIG. 1.

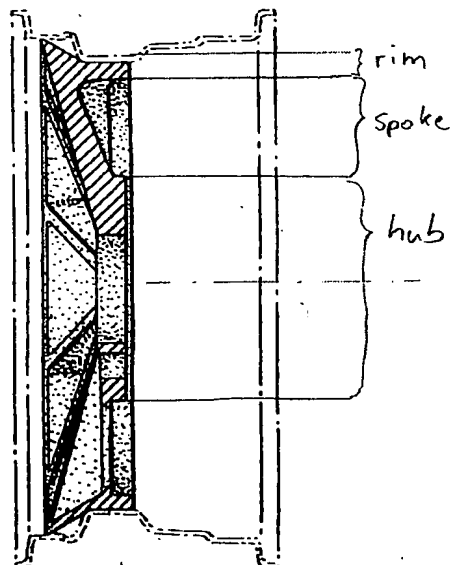


FIG. 2.